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PATENT

S.N. 10/670,978

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6-12, and 16-18 remain in the application.

Claim 1 is amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of claim 1.

Claims 6, 8, 9, 16, and 18 are amended to place the claims in condition for allowance as stated hereinafter.

Claims 6, 8, and 9 were also amended to overcome a 35 USC 112 rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter:

The Office Action states that claims 6, 8-12, and 16-18 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this amendment, claim 6 is amended to include the limitations of prior claim 1 and intervening claims 4 and 5. It is believed that this amendment to claim 6 places claim 6 in condition for allowance by incorporating the limitations of claims 1 and 4-5 as stated in the Office Action. Note that claim 6 was also amended to overcome a 35 USC 112 rejection as indicated hereinafter.

By this amendment, claim 8 is amended to include the limitations of prior claim 1 and intervening claims 4 and 5. It is believed that this amendment to claim 8 places claim 8 in condition for allowance by incorporating the limitations of claims 1, 4, and 5 as stated in the Office Action. Note that claim 8 was also amended to overcome a 35 USC 112 rejection as indicated hereinafter.

By this amendment, claim 9 is amended to include the limitations of prior claim 1 and intervening claim 4. It is believed that this amendment to claim 9 places claim 9 in condition for allowance by incorporating the limitations of claim 17 as stated in the Office Action. Note that claim 9 was also amended to overcome a 35 USC 112 rejection as indicated hereinafter.

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By this amendment, claim 16 is amended to include the limitations of prior claim 13. It is believed that this amendment to claim 16 places claim 16 in condition for allowance by incorporating the limitations of claim 13 as stated in the Office Action.

By this amendment, claim 18 is amended to include the limitations of prior claim 13. It is believed that this amendment to claim 18 places claim 18 in condition for allowance by incorporating the limitations of claim 13 as stated in the Office Action.

Objection to the Claims:

Claims 5-8 were objected to for various informalities of claim 5. It is believed that the amendments to claims 6 and 8 now overcome this objection.

35 USC 112 Rejection:

Claims 5-12 were rejected under 35 USC 112 as being indefinite. It is believed that the amendments to claims 6, 8, and 9 now overcome the 35 USC 112 rejection and places claims 6-12 in conformance with 35 USC 112.

Claim 6 is amended to include the limitations of prior claims 1, 4, and 5. In order to overcome the 35 USC 112 rejection and particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of claim 6, the first signal and the second signal of claim 4 are not used in claim 6. Instead, the signals of claim 6 and intervening claim 5 are used. It is believed that this amendment of claim 6 now overcomes the 35 USC 112 rejection of claim 6 and that the amendment is consistent with the allowability of claim 6 that was indicated in the Office Action.

Claim 8 is amended to include the limitations of prior claims 1, 4, and 5. In order to overcome the 35 USC 112 rejection, the first signal and the second signal of claim 4 are used in claim 8 instead of the signals of claim 5 and claim 8. It is believed that this amendment of claim 8 particularly points out and distinctly claims the subject matter of claim 8 and now

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overcomes the 35 USC 112 rejection of claim 8 and that the amendment is consistent with the allowability of claim 8 that was indicated in the Office Action.

Claim 9 is amended to include the limitations of prior claims 1 and 5. In order to overcome the 35 USC 112 rejection, the first signal and the second signal of claim 4 are not used in claim 8. Instead of the first signal of claim 9 and the voltage return of claim 9 are used. It is believed that this amendment of claim 9 particularly points out and distinctly claims the subject matter of claim 9 and now overcomes the 35 USC 112 rejection of claim 9 and that the amendment is consistent with the allowability of claim 9 that was indicated in the Office Action.

It is believed that this amendment of claim 9 also now places dependent claims 10-12 in conformance with 35 USC 112.

35 USC 102 Rejection:

Claims 1-5, 7, 13-15, 19, and 20 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) over United States patent no. 5,359,243 issued to Norman.

Amended claim 1 includes, among other things, forming an enhancement mode transistor of a first conductivity type having a source coupled to a source of a depletion mode transistor of a second conductivity type, forming a second depletion mode transistor having a gate and a source coupled to receive a voltage from a voltage source and having a drain coupled to a gate of one of the enhancement mode transistor or the depletion mode transistor, and forming a third depletion mode transistor having a drain coupled to a drain of the depletion mode transistor and having a gate and a source coupled to a gate of one of the enhancement mode transistor or the depletion mode transistor. It is believed that the relied on reference does not disclose three depletion mode transistors and one enhancement mode transistor coupled in such a configuration. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is not anticipated by the relied on reference.

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Claim 7 now depends from allowable claim 6 and is believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 6.

The references cited but not relied upon were reviewed and are believed not to anticipate or make obvious applicants' invention.

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CONCLUSION

Applicant(s) made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. In view of all of the above, it is believed that the claims are allowable, and that the case is now in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

By this amendment, 2 independent claims and 7 dependent claims are cancelled, and five dependent claims are amended to become independent claims for a total of 6 independent claims and 11 total claims. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees (\$600.00) which may be required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-1086.

If there are matters which can be discussed by telephone to further the prosecution of this Application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney/agent at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,
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